

Council on Aging Board  
Minutes of Meeting 11 January 2006

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager and Sharon Wright, Dining site manager were also present. Board member Lillian Goodman was excused.

1. Chairman's comments:

The chairman opened the meeting at 10:10am. The minutes of the December 14, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved. Paul announced that Martin Green had been appointed to the board by Town Manager Daniel Morgado to replace Al Crommett. Martin was unable to attend the meeting because of a death in the family.

2. Director's comments:

Sharon expressed her special thanks to the Friends for hosting several events over the holiday season. She indicated that the additional formula grant funds should be received soon. Senior Aide Layah Lehman, who acts as editor of the newsletter, will be leaving at the end of January. Sharon indicated that applications for the tax write-off program have increased significantly; board members indicated a desire to increase the budget for this program next year with a goal of \$10,000 if possible.

3. Liaison Reports:

Friends of the SCC, Inc.---- Helene reported that the Friends next monthly meeting would have Worcester County Sheriff Guy Glodis as guest speaker. The Friends have also allocated \$5000 from their emergency funds toward the fuel assistance program for this year.

Elder Services Worcester/Outreach—Walter Rice submitted his monthly report of activities for December. Medicare D questions were more numerous as expected as the program approaches formal opening this month.

4. Old Business:

Paul and Sharon updated the board on FY'07 budget discussions with the Town Manager. Issues of note include town funding for the outreach coordinator's position and decision made to purchase the new software package, "My Senior Center", mentioned in last month's report. Gift account funds will be used to pay for the program with possible re-imburement from State funds later. Town Manager is in general agreement with overall budget request. Finance committee review is scheduled for February 4, 2006 at 1:15pm

Paul reported that he attended a meeting in Westboro of the committee working toward senior tax relief issues. Auditors reported on the potential impact of recommended legislation on town budgets.

5. New Business:

Sharon Wright, dining site manager offered the board an interesting overview of the Age Center's nutrition program including some new initiatives being undertaken to improve the quality of services provided. A sample "Code of Courtesy and Respect" was included with a copy of the Age Center newsletter and a sample menu for January. Some optional meal choices were also discussed. The board expressed its appreciation to Sharon for her informative presentation.

Sharon (the director) noted that the Book Collection program has resulted in a large number of books, etc. being donated. A trailer is available to store material for this program which is a collaborative effort with other town departments. The material will eventually be sent across the seas to needy people. The board spent some time reviewing a change to the Policy and Procedures document to expand the personal conduct section. The essence of the change concerns appropriate Staff actions in case of violations. The board voted its approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Concordia, Secretary